domestic money transfer and e-post. Citizen Charter Scheme is also being implemented in all head post offices in the circle to provide more responsive services.

Software units registered with STPI in Hyderabad

2249. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Wili the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of software units, registered with Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) as on this day in Hyderabad; and

(b) the details of their locations with their official addresses of their units and e-mail addresses of their units located in Hyderabad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) 1084 units have been registered under Software Technology Park (STP) scheme at Hyderabad centre till date. The list of these units alongwith official addresses and e-mail addresses are available at Web-sites http://www.stpi.soft.net in pdf format.

Concession to senior citizens

2250. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. is offering some concession in rent in the bill of land line telephones owned by senior citizens, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether the same concessions is not provided to senior citizens holding land line telephone connection of the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. living in NCR town of Faridabad, Gurgaon and Ghaziabad, if so, the details and justification for this discrimination when both telephone companies **are** Government undertaking?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir. MTNL, Delhi and Mumbai are providing rebate in

its plan 250 scheme only in respect of landline connections to the senior citizens. The rebates include 25% on rent and 25% on installation charges.

(b) Yes, Sir. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited, is not granting such rebate to the senior citizens holding land line telephone connection, living in NCR town of Faridabad, Gurgaon and Ghaziabad for the following reasons:—

(i) BSNL is an independent entity working in stiff competitive environment with other private operators.

(if) BSNL has 'Sulabh Plan' for basic telephony where rental is substantially lower than MTNL varying from Rs. 99/- to Rs. 160/- per month depending on exchange system capacity. This can be availed by senior citizens.

(iii) Even in general tariff plans of BSNL in basic telephony, the rental varies from Rs. 50/- per month to Rs. 180/- per month for exchange systems capacity upto 1 lakh lines.

(iv) The bona fide use of concessional telephone cannot be restricted to senior citizens only in the family.

Provision of land line connections in Jammu and Kashmir

2251. SHRI T. S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that mobile phone services are not available in various border areas of Jammu and Kashmir at present due to security reasons or otherwise;

(b) whether Government propose to provide adequate land line telephone connections in such areas in near future; and

(c) if so, the areas selected for the purpose and status of progress made to provide landline connections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) At present, fixed line telephone exchanges in the following border towns/villages are working:—